

Chairperson: Louis Fortis, 276-2222
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Julie Esch 278-4430

Parks Advisory Commission

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

**219 North Milwaukee Avenue, 7th Floor
(Public parking available across the street)**

M I N U T E S

PRESENT: Rafael Acevedo, Jr., John Gurda, F. William Haberman, Penelope Stewart* and Louis Fortis (Chairperson) - 5

EXCUSED: Henry Hamilton III and Daniel Steininger - 2

ALTERNATE: Nancy Davlantes

**Ms. Stewart was not present at roll call but appeared shortly thereafter.*

Scheduled Items:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. A roll call was taken with four members present, a fifth was present shortly thereafter and two were excused as noted above.

2. Approval of minutes from January 9, 2008

The minutes from January 9, 2008 were approved by a voice vote of 4-0.

3. Review and discussion of the "Delivery On Our Charge" proposed by Mr. Steininger

Chairman Fortis suggested a discussion regarding one piece of this document be handled at a time.

4. Ongoing discussion on options available to the Commission and the feasibility of them

The discussion was focused on the funding piece of any future enabling legislation. The majority of the members feel the need to find funding before the Parks deteriorate further. Discussions regarding how the Parks are governed will not matter if there are no Parks left.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Of all of the possibilities there are only a few that could generate the funding needed to cover not only the Park operations but possible funding of cultural entities and deferred maintenance of the Parks.

Of those proposed property tax is the least favored due to the burden on the already overtaxed citizens of Milwaukee County. On the other side it would be the most logical. Property tax is deductible when filing personal taxes.

Another discussion ensued involving bonding for Parks funding. Laws do not allow for bonds to be used for daily operational purposes. There is also the issue of repayment of the bonds. Where would these funds come from?

Car rental, user fees, hotel tax, land sales, private donations and vehicle taxes were discussed also. It was noted that most of these funds are already slated for use by various groups or government entities. Additionally, not many of these funds are sufficient or consistent enough for the needs of the Parks.

The funds need to be dedicated and overall consistent. A sales tax would enable a large amount of funds to be raised in addition to spreading the cost over a larger majority including not only citizens, but also visitors to our County. Relatively speaking Wisconsin sales tax is lower than most.

The Commission requested staff put together a matrix/graph of funding sources, including projected funding levels, the pros and cons, political history and bonded debt. The report will be sent to members a week prior to the next meeting to allow members a chance to review. This will be used at the next meeting to come to a consensus.

Various members want the option to discuss governance. In addition, funding options for consideration should not be limited to only Parks, but possibly cultural organizations, transit and/or public safety.

5. Future meeting dates and items for discussion

It was suggested that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, following the organizational meeting of the County Board.

Due to a scheduling conflict the next meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on **Tuesday**, April 8, 2008, at 219 North Milwaukee Avenue, 7th Floor.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Sue Black, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Mr. Vince Masterson, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, DAS

Supervisor Gerry Broderick, District 3

Mr. Daniel Diliberti, Milwaukee County Treasurer

Ms. Julie Esch, Research Analyst

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Carol Mueller, Committee Clerk

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTY), upon receipt of this notice.